

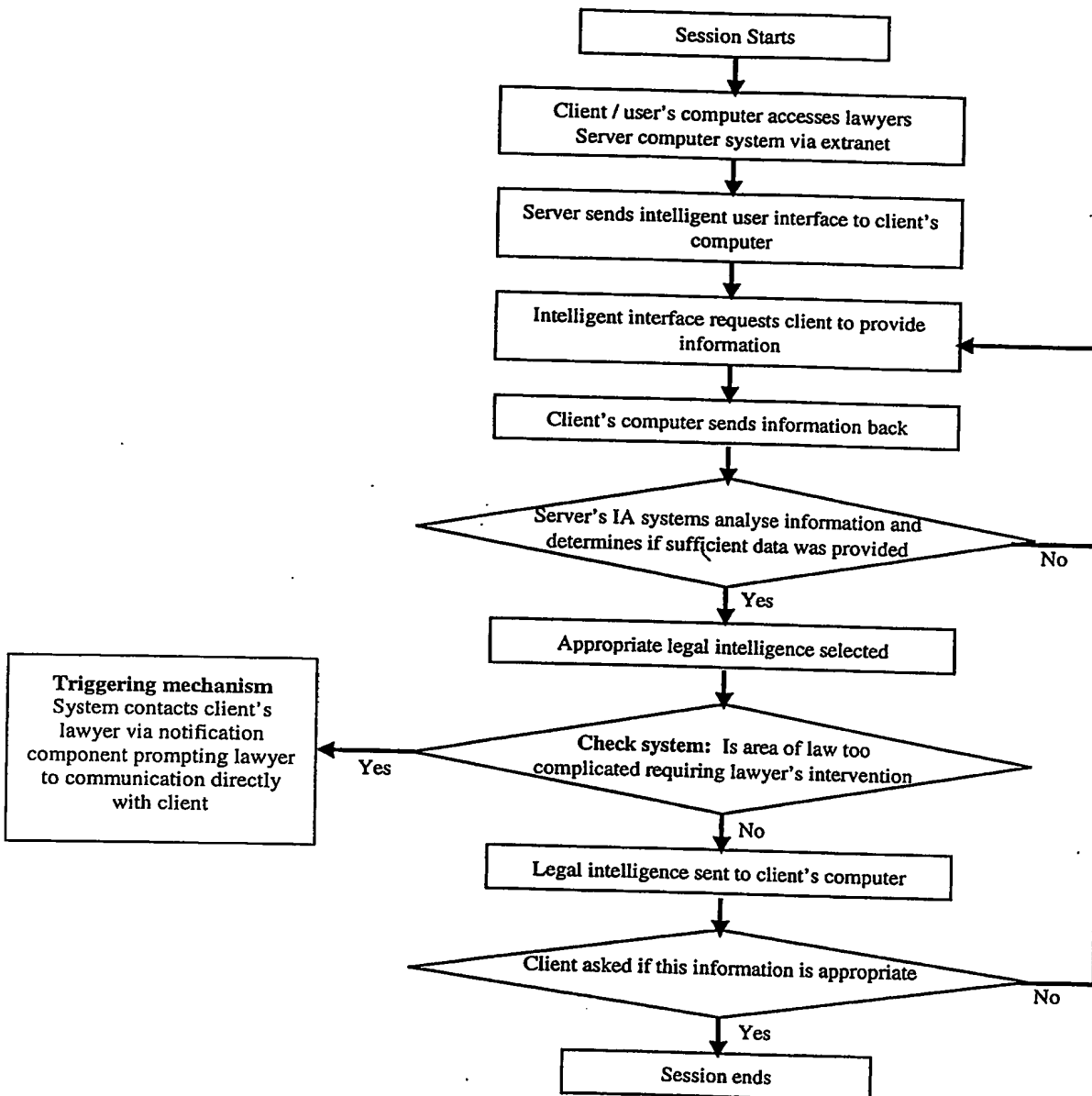
FIGURE 1

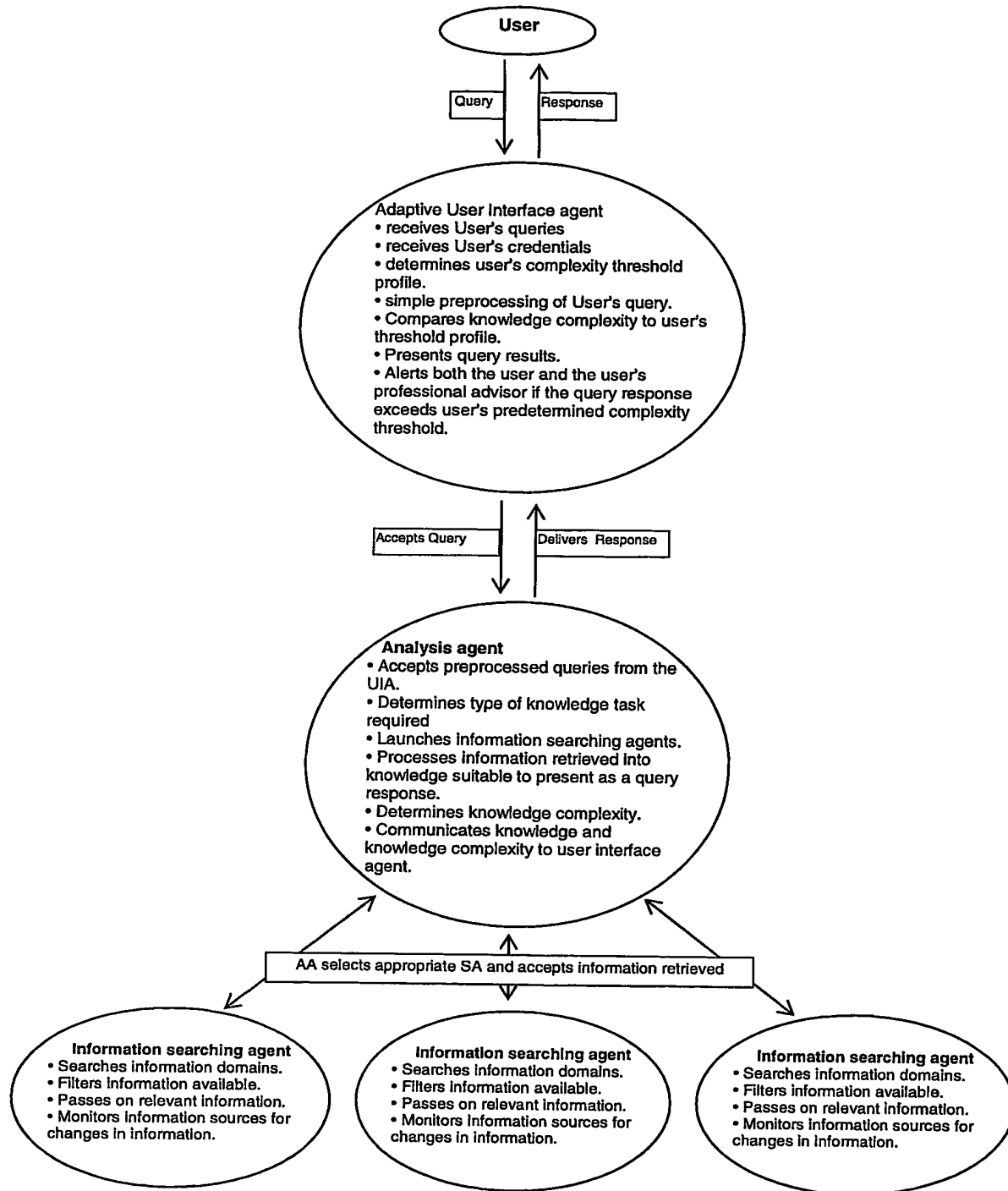
FIGURE 2

TABLE 1

Agent Computer program	Function Designed to perform a task of varying complexity.	Characteristics
User Interface agent	Interacts with the user by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> receiving User's queries receiving User's credentials simple preprocessing of User's query. Presenting query results 	<p>Adaptive user interface</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observes and learns user's preference and habits. Based on user's level of expertise <p>Agent is proactive in undertaking an information filtering role and communicating with analysis and information searching agents.</p> <p>Agent presents an easy to understand and use anthropocentric interface.</p>
Analysis agent	Accepts preprocessed queries from the UIA and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launches information searching agents. Processes information retrieved. Communicate problem-solving strategies to user interface agent. Provides useful tips and directions. Alerts both the user and the user's professional advisor if the recommended strategy exceeds a predetermined complexity threshold 	<p>Strategised to query and exchange information with the interface agent</p> <p>Programmed to select appropriate information search agents</p> <p>Able to fuse information retrieved by the information searching agents</p> <p>Formulated to recognise problem-solving requirements.</p> <p>Can compare complexity of problem solving solution to predetermined thresholds of rule complexity.</p>
Information searching agent	Search particular heterogeneous information sources and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filters information available. Passes on only information user is interested in. Monitors information sources for changes in information. 	<p>Specialised agent strategised to select particular information sources</p> <p>Incorporate models of conflict resolution</p> <p>Incorporate models of information fusion</p> <p>Communicates with other agents</p>

FIGURE 3